



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,648	08/28/2001	Yoshiki Yoshida	DAIN:518A	5528

7590

03/04/2003

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
Suite 210
1421 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2805

EXAMINER

THOMPSON, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2873

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/939,648

Applicant(s)

YOSHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy J Thompson

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 14, 16, 17 and 19-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 08/28/01. These drawings are approved by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimura et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,101,031) in view of Masahiro (E.P. Patent No. EP 0825460A2).

Regarding claim 11, Yoshimura et al. discloses; (1) a base part (fig 1); (2) an entrance lens forming the entrance surface and having an array of a plurality of convex lens elements capable of gathering light rays(fig 1, 11); (3) a light absorbing layer formed in the exit-side light-nongathering regions(fig 1, 13); (4) an exit lens part formed on the exit surface and having an array of a plurality of lens elements formed respectively in light gathering regions in which light rays refracted by the convex lens elements of the entrance lens part gather(fig 1); (5)the lens elements on the exit lens part being convex toward the exit surface of

Art Unit: 2873

the lenticular lens sheet(fig 1, 12). Yoshimura et al. does not disclose a tinted layer formed on at least a portion of the entrance lens part or that the lens is formed from an individual base joined by additional material on each surface so as to form the final desired shape. Regarding the tinted layer, Masahiro discloses a tinted layer formed on at least a portion of the entrance lens part(fig 3A, 13) stating that this without reducing the intensity this exhibits fine contrast(page 6, lines 10-25). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to add a tinted layer to a portion of the entrance lens, as shown by Masahiro, in the lenticular lens of Yoshimura et al., since as shown by Masahiro, tinting a portion of the entrance lens is commonly done to exhibit fine contrast in the display. Regarding, the lens being formed from a separate base with additional layers attached to this base. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to form the lens from a base with additional material joined to each surface, as opposed to forming the lens from one individual piece, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. In re Lindberg, 93 USPQ 23 (CCPA 1952).

Regarding claim 16, Yoshimura et al. does not disclose a tinted layer extending along the light receiving surface of entrance lens part. However, Masahiro disclose a tinted layer extending along the light receiving surface of entrance lens part (fig 3A, 13). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to disclose a tinted layer extending along the light receiving surface of entrance lens part, as shown by Masahiro, in the lenticular

Art Unit: 2873

lens of Yoshimura et al., since as shown by Masahiro, a tinted layer extending along the light receiving surface of the entrance lens part is commonly done to create a lenticular lens which exhibits fine contrast in the display.

Regarding claim 17, Yoshimura et al. discloses; (1) a lenticular sheet having an entrance surface and an exit surface(fig 6, 4);(2) a fresnel lens sheet disposed opposite to the entrance surface of the lenticular lens sheet facing an image light source(fig 6, 3); (3) a base part (fig 1); (4) an entrance lens forming the entrance surface and having an array of a plurality of convex lens elements capable of gathering light rays(fig 1, 11); (5) a light absorbing layer formed in light-nongathering regions(fig 1, 13); (6) an exit lens part formed on the exit surface and having an array of a plurality of lens elements formed respectively in light gathering regions in which light rays refracted by the convex lens elements of the entrance lens part gather(fig 1); (7)the lens elements on the exit lens part being convex toward the exit surface of the lenticular lens sheet(fig 1, 12).

Yoshimura et al. does not disclose a tinted layer formed on at least a portion of the entrance lens part or that the lens is formed from an individual base joined by additional material on each surface so as to form the final desired shape.

However, Masahiro discloses a tinted layer formed on at least a portion of the entrance lens part(fig 3A, 13) stating that this, without reducing the intensity, exhibits fine contrast(page 6, lines 10-25). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to add a tinted layer to a portion of the entrance lens, as shown by Masahiro, in the lenticular lens of Yoshimura et

Art Unit: 2873

al., since as shown by Masahiro, tinting a portion of the entrance lens is commonly done to exhibit fine contrast in the display.

Regarding claim 20, Yoshimura et al. does not specifically disclose, the lens being formed from a separate base having flat sides with additional layers attached to the base. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to form the lens from a base with additional material joined to each surface, as opposed to forming the lens from one individual piece, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. In re Lindberg, 93 USPQ 23 (CCPA 1952).

Regarding claim 21, Yoshimura et al. does not specifically disclose, the lens being formed from a separate base having flat sides with additional layers attached to the base. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to form the lens from a base with additional material joined to each surface, as opposed to forming the lens from one individual piece, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. In re Lindberg, 93 USPQ 23 (CCPA 1952).

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over as Yoshimura et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,101,031) and Masahiro (E.P. Patent No. EP 0825460A2), applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Ludwig, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,307,205).

Regarding claim 14, a modified Yoshimura et al., as detailed in claim rejection 11 above, does not disclose a tinted front layer contains a light diffusing material. However, Ludwig, Jr. et al. discloses a tinted front layer contains a light diffusing material stating it provides a good balance of resolution, gain and contrast when used as a rear projection screen(col 1, lines 50-56). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to add a light diffusing material to the tinted layer, as shown by Ludwig, Jr. et al., in the lenticular lens display screen of a modified Yoshimura et al., since as shown by Ludwig, Jr. et al., adding a light diffusing material to the tinted layer of a display screen is commonly done for good balance of resolution, gain and contrast of the image displayed on the display screen.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over as Yoshimura et al. (U.S Patent No. 6,101,031) and Masahiro (E.P. Patent No. EP 0825460A2) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Ananian (U.S. Patent No. 4,907,090).

Regarding claim 19, a modified Yoshimura et al., as detailed in claim rejection 17 above, does not disclose a tinted front plate disposed opposite to the exit surface of the lenticular lens sheet. However, Ananian discloses a tinted front plate disposed opposite to the exit surface of the lenticular lens sheet, stating that this protects the display screen from foreign objects(fig 4, 12 and col 2, lines 50-55 and col 1,lines 53-58). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to add a tinted front plate disposed opposite to

Art Unit: 2873

the exit surface of the lenticular lens, as shown by Ananian, in the lenticular lens display screen of a modified Yoshimura et al., since as shown by Ananian, a tinted front plate disposed opposite to the exit surface of the lenticular lens sheet of a display screen is commonly done for protecting the display screen from foreign objects.

Response to Arguments

Regarding the applicants argument that the double sided lenticular lens screen is of the type designed to reduce the affects external light. Yoshimura does not state that his double sided lenticular lens screen reduces the negative effects of external light striking the viewer side of the screen, and as indicated by your application and U.S. Patent No. 6,241,181, double sided lenticular lens screens still have a problem with light striking the viewer's side screen. Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one skilled in the art, to place the tinted layer on the entrance side of the lens, so as to prevent light incident on the viewer's side of the screen from reflecting back towards the viewer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 22-28 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularity or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim, in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims 22 and 26, with the important feature being the lens elements of the exit lens part being concave toward the exit surface of the lenticular lens sheet. Therefore claims 22-28 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 305-0881. If the examiner can not be reached his supervisor, Georgia Epps, can be reached on (703) 308-4883.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Thompson", is located at the bottom right of the page.